



ERIN MENDENHALL
Mayor

**PROCLAMATION affirming Salt Lake City's racial equity work
and commissioning the Black Lives Matter street mural**

WHEREAS, despite federal, state, and local legislation and past efforts, racial and social disparities nevertheless continue to exist in Salt Lake City across all systems and institutions;

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Perry Floyd died while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police Department;

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Mr. Floyd's death, nationwide and in Salt Lake City, residents have demanded that local governments address systemic racism and enact policies to establish racial equity, particularly in policing;

WHEREAS, Mayor Mendenhall proposed and the City Council funded the undertaking of a comprehensive Citywide Equity Plan, which will examine equity indicators inside the City workplace as well as identify where the City has historically invested resources and how it has provided access to opportunity across the City in order to illustrate to the public and to policymakers how to repair historical and current inequities;

WHEREAS, Mayor Mendenhall proposed and the City Council funded the undertaking of a comprehensive displacement plan, which will examine the gentrification that is currently occurring inside our City and resulting in the displacement of homes and businesses, which homes and businesses may be owned by and more accessible to people of color and those who have been historically underserved in our City;

WHEREAS, the City is committed to receiving the expert, independent advice of the community to evaluate the Salt Lake City Police Department's policies, culture, and budget;

WHEREAS, the Mayor created, with the City Council's support, the Commission on Racial Equity in Policing to evaluate the SLCPD's policies, culture, and budget, and to provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council;

WHEREAS, the Mayor also desires to demonstrate her commitment to the local Black Lives Matter movement by commissioning a Black Lives Matter mural to memorialize the movement to eliminate systemic racism;

WHEREAS, as a demonstration of this commitment to the local Black Lives Matter movement, the City painted the outline of the words "Black Lives Matter" in front of the City and County Building and sought artists to paint the interior of the letters;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office commissioned the Black Lives Matter mural by issuing a contest to local artists to propose art within each letter that is reflective of the movement to eliminate systemic racism through a local perspective;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office reviewed all submissions and selected eight artists to paint inside the letters of the words "Black Lives Matter";

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement, at the local level, is driven by a desire to acknowledge the historical and systemic racism that exists across the City and has impacted the ability of people of color to gain access to mortgage lending, financial support, education, healthcare, employment, and many other opportunities;

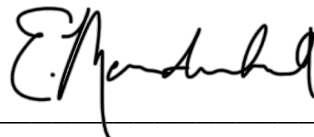
WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement, at the local level, is not anti-police, anti-capitalist, or anti-government, but desires to see progressive and positive change in the way that systems, including the justice system, impacts people of color; and

WHEREAS, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement at the local level and indicating that support through the commissioning of a mural, does not in any way indicate a lack of support or confidence in the Salt Lake City Police Department, but instead symbolizes support for equity for people of color and the desire to enact positive changes to a system that has historically oppressed and brutalized people of color.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Erin Mendenhall, Mayor of Salt Lake City, proclaim the following:

1. Racial discrimination and institutional racism continue to create barriers to success for people of color in Salt Lake City;
2. The principles of inclusiveness, multiculturalism and respect are values that can create a healthier and more productive workplace, improve access to opportunity, and drive policies and outcomes that benefit the entire City;
3. Supporting the Black Lives Matter movement at the local level is important to affirm the City's commitment to racial equity and is in no way intended to convey the message that the City is anti-police, but rather that the City desires to ensure that it is the most equitable and just community in the nation.

Issued this 4th day of August, 2020



Erin Mendenhall
Mayor